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Prevention of armed conflict

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Letter dated 27 May 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On 23 May 2010, parliamentary elections were held in Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. As in the past, these elections were also positively assessed by independent observers from different countries in terms of their organization, actual competitiveness and adherence to the legislation and international standards.

Not surprisingly, the state propaganda machinery of Azerbaijan has circulated yet another letter contained in document A/64/784-S/2010/249 dated 20 May 2010, making baseless and dangerous accusations towards the Armenian sides.

Notwithstanding the fiction contained in the above-mentioned letter, the fact remains that, as a result of the nation-wide, free and fair elections in Karabakh (Artsakh), stable political institutions, legitimate authorities, a functioning Government, an elected parliament, independent judiciary and civil control over military forces have been established. The commitment of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh to fundamental democratic values is further evident from the high degree of continued participation of the civil society in the ongoing political process.

The recognition of the inalienable right of the people of Artsakh to determine their own destiny is at the core of the proposals presented by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group Co-Chairs for the settlement of the issue, based on which the current negotiations are being conducted.

The international community and, in particular, Azerbaijan should be more than interested in interacting with the authorities elected by the people of Artsakh during the settlement negotiations of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue, especially given the fact that it is also envisaged by the mandate of the OSCE Minsk Conference. Moreover, as OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs stated, they "understand the need for the de facto authorities in Nagorno-Karabakh to try to organize democratically the public life of their population".

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The elections held on 23 May serve as a testament to the commitment of the authorities and the people of Artsakh to strengthen democracy and the rule of law. With these elections, the citizens of Nagorno-Karabakh once again expressed their determination to live in freedom and independence.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 13 and 18, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Garen **Nazarian**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative